



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
30 DECEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

The dock strike is over. Stevedores, who had been replaced by US troops at New Port, have been offered jobs elsewhere on the Saigon waterfront by American authorities. The decision to accept our terms was helped along by the poor showing made today when a so-called general strike could produce no more than 3,000 Saigon workers willing to go out in sympathy with the dockers.

2. South Vietnam

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3. Jordan

The Jordanians have played well in this week's round of Arab political poker. They have successfully stalled the effort to deploy other Arab troops in Jordan.

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4. Communist China

A campaign to curtail US use of Hong Kong as a Vietnam leave port may be brewing. Peking radio played this theme today for the first time since last February.

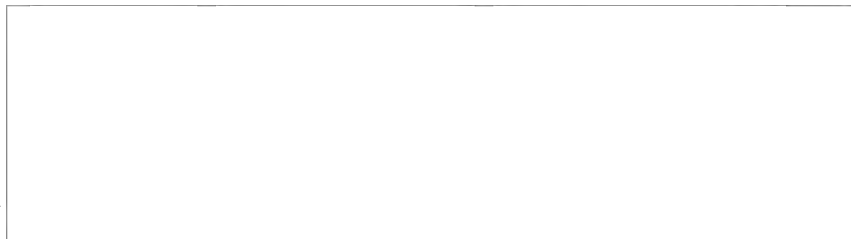
The Communists are probably feeling their oats after their easy intimidation of the Portuguese authorities in Macao. Hong Kong, however, is much more useful to Peking, and we doubt that the pressure will go beyond minor harassment of the colony.

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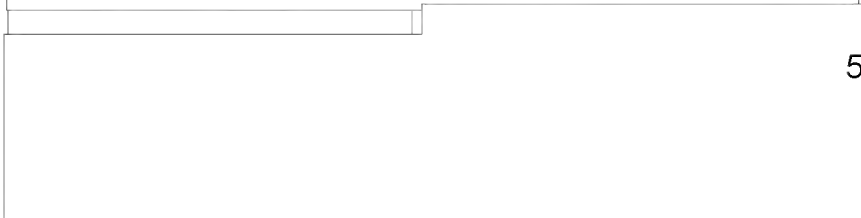
5. Indonesia

Suharto, as part of his effort to erode Sukarno's power, is trying to control the presidential purse.

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6. Argentina

It was President Ongania who insisted on the resignation of the cabinet yesterday. This was probably an attempt to mute charges--from both civilian and military quarters--that his government lacked direction and was making little progress in solving the country's problems.

Ongania will probably retain most of the less controversial members, but the chief targets of criticism--the interior and economy ministers--will go. We ought to have a clearer idea of where the regime is heading when their replacements are announced.

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7. Congo

The irresistible force is now trying to avoid colliding with the immovable object. Mobutu, finally comprehending the economic leverage Union Minière holds over the Congo, is no longer insisting that the company transfer its headquarters to Kinshasa.

However, other significant points of disagreement remain, and there are some signs that the company may have decided to let Mobutu stew for awhile. A settlement by midnight tomorrow--the date by which Mobutu is publicly committed to bring the company to heel--is unlikely.

Further delays on the issue will hurt the Congo more than the company.

8. Soviet Union

Peking's anti-Soviet crusade is causing increasing concern in Moscow.

An editorial yesterday in Red Star, the official army journal, warns that Mao and Lin Piao are turning the Chinese army into a "blind weapon" in their offensive against the USSR. The Chinese army is portrayed as an opponent rather than an ally.

All this is, of course, partly a propaganda thrust at "Mao and his group." But the tone of the editorial, as well as recent precautionary moves by the USSR near China and Mongolia, seems to us to show genuine anxiety over the upheaval in China.

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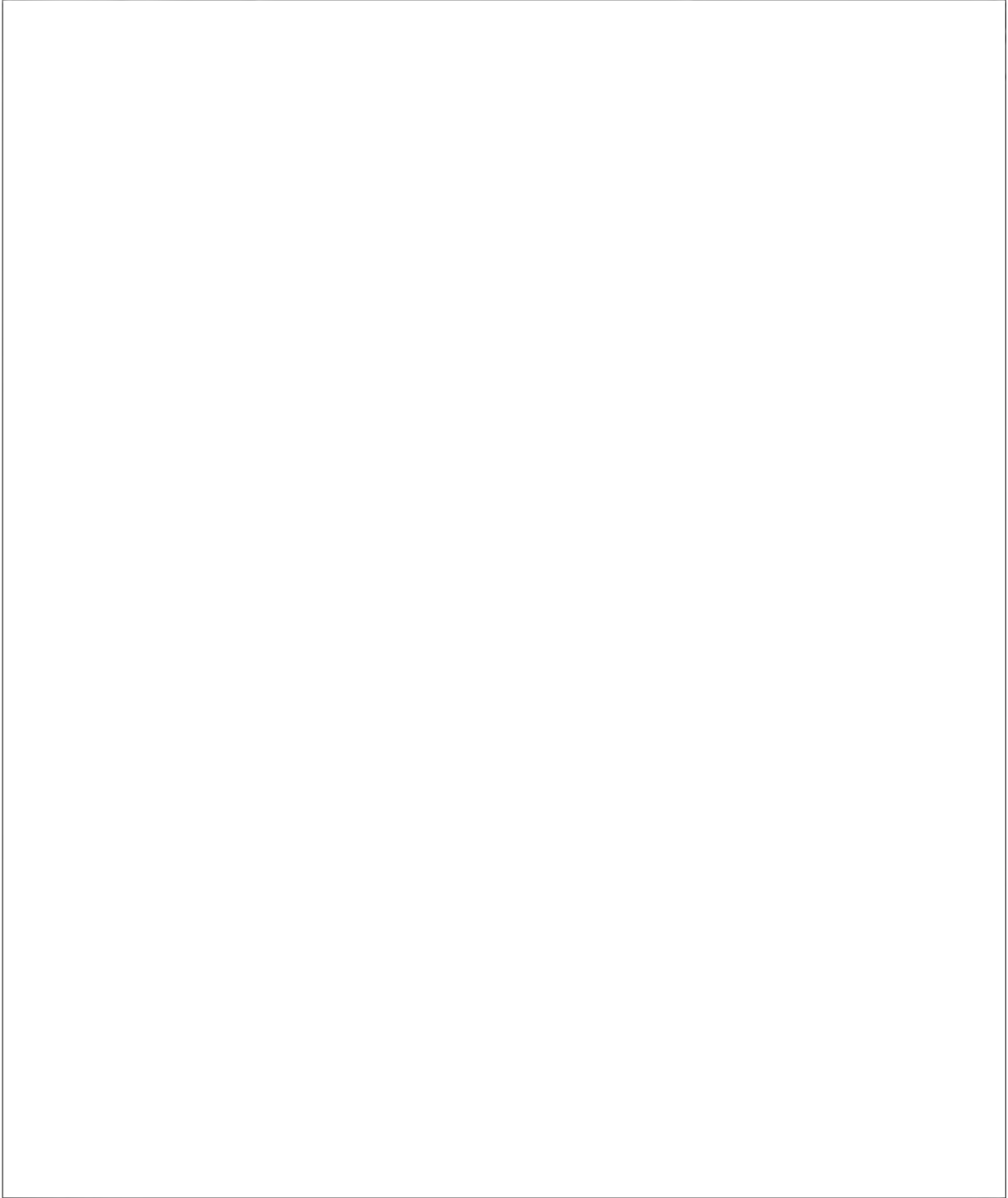
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